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Title: Need to address the grievances of people in Western Ghats before implementaion of Expert Panel recommendations.

SHRI ANTO ANTONY (PATHANAMTHITTA): Madam Speaker, I request the Government to remove the apprehensions of lakhs of people residing in the State of Kerala regarding the grave impact of the recommendations of Expert Panels on the Western Ghats. The Government constituted two Committees to study the ecological conditions in the Western Ghats region. These two Committees respectively led by Madhav Gadgil and K. Kasturirangan exclusively looked into the ecological aspects ignoring the social and economic realities existing in this region. For instance, these Committees categorized heavily populated habitations, agricultural lands and plantations as Ecologically Sensitive Areas. As a result, people in these areas are deprived of development and are under threat of displacement from their habitations. This will have an adverse impact on the livelihood of millions of people living in the Western Ghats region. Though various levels of discussions were held, different Committees were formed and the concerned stakeholders submitted their views and suggestions, the matter is still pending with the Government for the last two and a half years.

Therefore, I request the Government to issue necessary order immediately excluding agricultural lands, plantations, heavily populated inhabitations so that grievances of the people of this area are redressed.

माननीय अध्यक्ष :

श्री पी.करुणाकरन,

श्री पी.के.बिजू,

एडवोकेट जोएस जॉर्ज और

*m05

श्री जोस के. मणि को श्री एंटो एंटोनी द्वारा उठाए गए विषय के साथ संबद्ध करने की अनुमति प्रदान की जाती है।